

## **Department of Energy**

Washington, DC 20585

December 28, 2006

Chairman Charles D. Nottingham Office of Chairman Surface Transportation Board 1925 K Street, NW, Suite 820 Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

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35 PENTERED Office of Proceedings

DEC 282006

Part of Public Record

RE: Docket Nos. 38302S and 38376S

Dear Chairman Nottingham:

The order entered in these dockets July 27, 2005 (served August 2, 2005, and effective September 1, 2005), approving the Government's settlement agreement with Union Pacific Railroad Company, further held these proceedings in abeyance while directing the Government to file quarterly reports on the progress of settlement negotiations. The Government continues to seek settlement and is currently actively engaged with two of the remaining railroad defendants, BNSF and Norfolk Southern. While we are not yet in a position to report an agreement with either carrier, since our last report the Government has had separate, and in our view constructive, exchanges with both railroads. We will file a further report by the end of March 2007.

Sincerely,

Stephen C. Skubel

Assistant General Counsel

For Litigation (202) 586-5579

cc: Vice Chairman Francis P. Mulvey Board Member W. Douglas Buttrey Attached Service List

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Stephen C. Skubel, hereby certify that on this 28th day of December, 2006, I

served a copy of the	e foregoing document	t by prepaid first-class n	nail on the following:
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A1 1 0 D 1 C 1 D D C	D CC 1 0 D'W 1 1 D '1 1	
Aberdeen & Rockfish R.R. Co. P.O. Box 917	Buffalo & Pittsburgh Railroad	
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Aberdeen, NC 28313	Greenwich, CT 06830	
	Greenwich, C1 00050	
Montana Rail Link, Inc.	James R. Paschall	
101 International Way	Greg E. Summy	
Missoula, MT 59808	Norfolk Southern Railway Company	
	Three Commercial Place	
) /	Norfolk, VA 23510	
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Pittsburgh & Lake Erie	The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe	
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Stephen C. Skubel